

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend and add claims as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims accompanies this response.

Please cancel claims 4-6 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Amended) A hemicellulose material comprising a non-cellulosic, non-starch plant polysaccharide, an oxidase and an oxidase substrate, wherein the polysaccharide comprises arabinoxylan ferulate and the hemicellulosic material is water soluble.

2. (Amended) The material of claim 1 further comprising a peroxidase.

3. (Amended) The material of claim 1, wherein the hemicellulose material is derived from cereal, husk or bran, straw, or from legumes.

7. (Amended) The material of claim 1, wherein said material is in the form of a powder.

8. (Amended) The material of claim 7 which further comprises peroxidase, the material being self-gelling on the addition of water.

9. (Amended) The material of claim 1, wherein the material is in the form of an aqueous solution.

10. (Amended) The material of claim 9, which is substantially free of molecular oxygen.

11. (Amended) The material of claim 10, which further comprises peroxidase and which is self-gelling on exposure to molecular oxygen.

12. (Amended) A gel or viscous medium comprising the material of claim 1, which has been oxidatively gelled.

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13. (Amended) The gel of claim 12, wherein the material comprises cross linked arabinoxylan ferulate.

14. (Amended) The gel of viscous medium of claim 12 in dehydrated form.

16. (Amended) A process for preparing a gel or viscous medium comprising the step of oxidatively gelling the material of claim 1.

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17. (Amended) A process for effecting oxidative gelatin of a water soluble hemicellulosic material, said material comprising non-cellulosic, non-starch plant polysaccharides comprising arabinoxylan ferulate, comprising promoting the generation of hydrogen peroxide *in situ* by redox enzymes, said generation comprising the steps of:

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- (a) providing oxygen to the material and/or
 - (b) providing water to the material; and/or
 - (c) providing oxidase substrate to the material; and/or
 - (d) activating one or more of the redox enzymes.

18. (Amended) The process of claim 16, wherein the redox enzymes comprise an oxidase and a peroxidase.

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19. (Amended) The process of claim 17, wherein the process comprises the steps of supplementing the hemicellulosic material with an oxidase and optionally an oxidase substrate and/or a peroxidase.

20. The process of claim 18, wherein the generation of hydrogen peroxide is promoted by:

- (a) providing oxygen to the material and/or
- (b) providing water to the material; and/or
- (c) providing oxidase substrate to the material; and/or
- (d) activating one or more of the redox enzymes.

21. (Amended) A gel or viscous medium produced by the process of claim 16.

22. (Amended) A process for producing the hemicellulosic material of claim 1 comprising the step of supplementing a hemicellulose with an oxidase and optionally a peroxidase.

23. (Amended) A material produced by the process of claim 22.

24. (Amended) A pharmaceutical or cosmetic preparation or medical device comprising the material, gel, viscous medium, dehydrated gel/viscous medium of claim 1, the preparation or device being selected from the group consisting of a wound plug, wound dressing, controlled release device, an encapsulated medicament or drug, a lotion, cream, suppository, pessary, spray, artificial skin, protective membrane, a neutraceutical, prosthetic, orthopaedic, ocular insert, injectant, lubricant or cell implant matrix, optionally further comprising an antibiotic, analgesic and antiinflammatory agent.

25. (Amended) The material, gel or viscous medium of claim 12 for use in therapy, prophylaxis or diagnosis of skin lesions.

26. (Amended) A wound dressing comprising the material of claim 11.

28. (Amended) A foodstuff, dietary fiber source, food ingredient, additive, lubricant, supplement or dressing comprising the material, gel or viscous medium of claim 1, being selected from the group consisting of a petfood, a flavour delivery agent, a canning gel, fat replacer, a coating, a glaze, a bait and a gelatin replacer.

29. (Amended) A masking agent comprising the gel of claims 12.

Please add the following new claims.

30. (New) The material of claim 1, wherein the oxidase is glucose oxidase.

31. (New) The material of claim 2, wherein the peroxidase is horse radish peroxidase.

32. (New) The material of claim 2, wherein the oxidase substrate is glucose.

33. (New) The material of claim 3, wherein the hemicellulose material is selected from the group consisting of maize, wheat, barley, rice, oats and malt.

34. (New) The material of claim 1, wherein the material is derived from testaceous plant material containing at least about 20% of at least one of arabinoxylan or glucoronoarabinoxylan.

35. (New) The material of claim 7, wherein the powder is substantially anhydrous and further comprises a dispersant.

36. (New) The material of claim 35, wherein the dispersant is selected from the group consisting of glucose and maltodextrin.

37. (New) The material of claim 7, wherein the oxidase substrate is glucose.

38. (New) The material of claim 11, wherein the oxidase substrate is glucose.

39. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the oxidative gelling comprises adding water to the material or exposing the material to molecular oxygen.

40. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein the process comprises the steps of supplementing the hemicellulosic material with an oxidase and optionally an oxidase substrate and/or a peroxidase.

41. (New) The material of claim 18, wherein the oxidase is a glucose oxidase.

42. (New) The material of claim 18, where in the peroxidase is horse radish peroxidase.

43. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the oxygen and oxidase are each provided by generation or controlled release *in situ*.

44. (New) The process of claim 20, wherein the one or more redox enzymes are activated chemically or physically.

45. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein the oxidase is a glucose oxidase.

46. (New) The process of claim 22, wherein the peroxidase is horse radish peroxidase.

47. (New) The process of claim 25, wherein the skin lesions is selected from the group consisting of burns, abrasions and ulcers.

48. (New) The wound dressing of claim 26 in the form of a spray.

49 (New) A gel or viscous medium produced by the process of claim 16

50 New) The material, gel or viscous medium of claim 21 for use in therapy, prophylaxis or diagnosis of skin lesions.

51 (New) A foodstuff, dietary fiber source, food ingredient, additive, lubricant, supplement or dressing comprising the material, gel or viscous medium of claim 12, being selected from the group consisting of a petfood, a flavour delivery agent, a canning gel, fat replacer, a coating, a glaze, a bait and a gelatin replacer.

52. (New) A foodstuff, dietary fiber source, food ingredient, additive, lubricant, supplement or dressing comprising the material, gel or viscous medium of claim 21, being selected from the group consisting of a petfood, a flavour delivery agent, a canning gel, fat replacer, a coating, a glaze, a bait and a gelatin replacer.

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53. (New) A foodstuff, dietary fiber source, food ingredient, additive, lubricant, supplement or dressing comprising the material, gel or viscous medium of claim 23, being selected from the group consisting of a petfood, a flavour delivery agent, a canning gel, fat replacer, a coating, a glaze, a bait and a gelatin replacer.

54. (New) A masking agent comprising the gel of claim 21.

55. (New) The hemicellulose material of claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide consists essentially of arabinoxylan ferulate. ?

56. (New) The hemicellulose material of claim 1, wherein the polysaccharide consists of arabinoxylan ferulate. ?

57. (New) The gel of claim 13, wherein the material consists essentially of cross linked arabinoxylan ferulate.